

# Early intervention

Stephanie Waddell, Senior Advisor  
Early Intervention Foundation

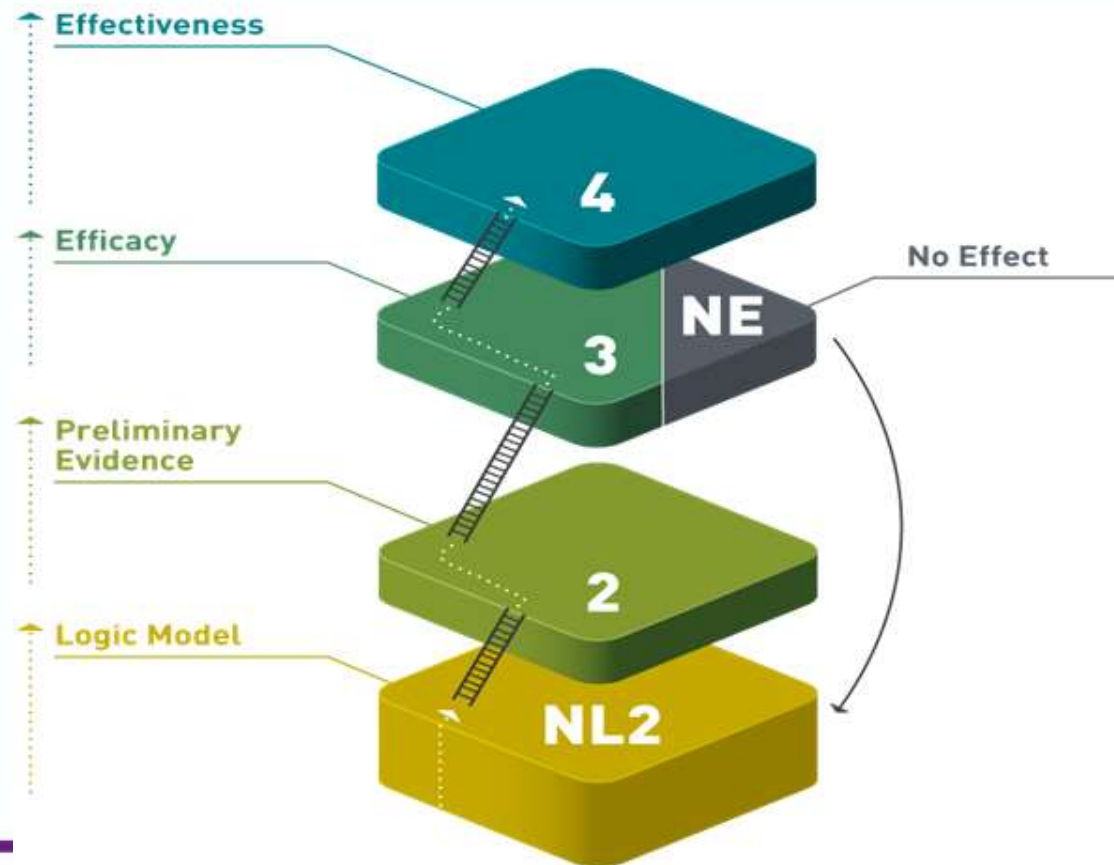
# The Early Intervention Foundation

- An independent charity launched in 2013
- One of the Government's What Works Centres
- A mission to support effective early intervention to improve outcomes for children and young people and reduce cost



# Evidence standards

Much of EIF's work is about classifying the strength of evidence for different interventions





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Guidebook

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EIF evidence standards

About the Guidebook ▾

## GUIDEBOOK

The EIF Guidebook provides information about early intervention programmes that have been evaluated and shown to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Through a rigorous assessment process, EIF has rated the strength of evidence for a programme's impact and its relative costs.

The Guidebook also provides a wealth of information about the specific outcomes a programme has been shown to improve, how the programme works, how it is delivered, and the conditions or resources that can make a programme more likely to be effective.

The Early Intervention Foundation is an independent charity that champions and supports the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children, young people and their families, reduce hardship and improve value for money in the long run. Visit our website for more information.

[EIF website](#)

Browse our entire  
programme catalogue

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## Filter programmes

[Evidence rating](#)[Child outcomes](#)[Age groups](#)



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## GUIDEBOOK

## Filter programmes

## Evidence rating

2

3

4

No effect

Rating 2 includes 2+, 3 includes  
3+, 4 includes 4+.

## Cost rating

1

2

3

4

5

## Provision

☐Show only programmes that have  
been implemented in the UK.

## Child outcomes

☐Supporting children's mental health  
and wellbeing☐

Preventing child maltreatment

☐Enhancing school achievement &  
employment☐Preventing crime, violence and  
antisocial behaviour☐

Preventing substance abuse

☐Preventing risky sexual behaviour &  
teen pregnancy☐Preventing obesity and promoting  
healthy physical development

## Age groups

☐

Antenatal

☐

Perinatal

☐

Infants

☐

Toddlers

☐

Preschool

☐

Primary school

☐

Preadolescents

☐

Adolescents

Clear selections

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## Example Programme

Example Programme is a targeted-selective programme for children between the ages of 8 and 12. It is designed to prevent antisocial behaviour and substance abuse in children from low-income families.

*How strong is the evidence?*

Evidence rating: 3+

Cost rating: 1

*What does it cost?*

Child outcomes:

Preventing substance abuse  
Preventing crime, violence and antisocial behaviour

*What can it achieve?*

*What does it do?*

*Is it in the UK already?*

UK provision: Yes

Age group:

Preadolescents

Delivery model: Group

*Who is it for?*

*Where does it all happen?*

Setting:

Primary school  
Secondary school  
Community centre

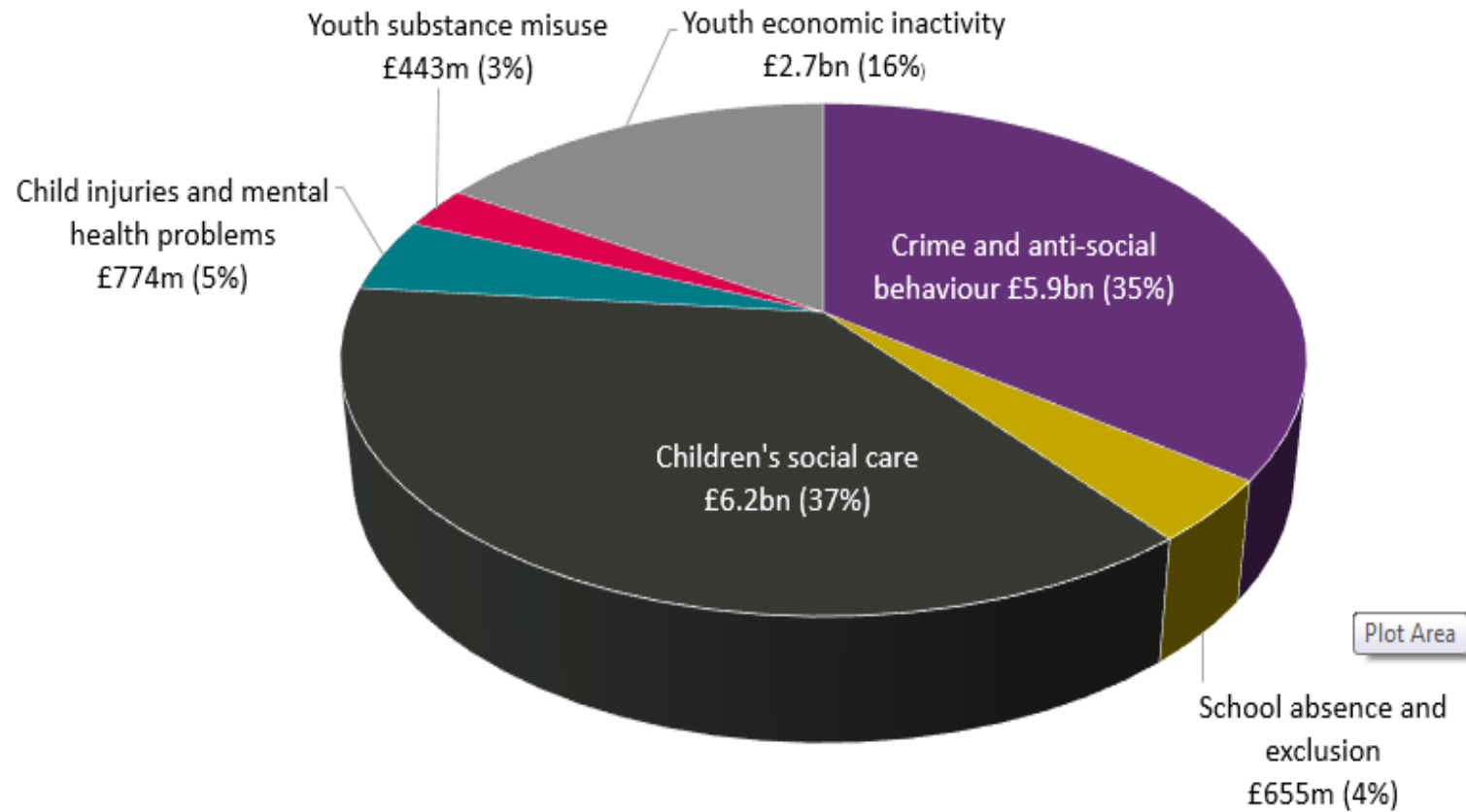
Classification:

Targeted selective

*Universal or targeted?*

# Why early intervention?

Total annual spend: £16.6bn (2016-17 prices)





# The evidence base

- The right intervention at the right time can significantly improve the life chances for vulnerable children and families
- Strong evidence for a range of programmes designed to support children and families
- Evidence-based programmes implemented to a high standard can deliver considerable cost/benefit: e.g. Functional Family Therapy costs £3500 per family on average, but estimated to deliver long-term benefits of £32,500
- Evidence for ‘system approaches’ such as multi-agency teams or workforce development, is very limited. Urgent need for high quality evaluation



# Findings from our 'What Works Reviews'

- A good range of evidence-based programmes shown to improve attachment, behaviour and cognitive skills in the **critical early years**.
- Importance of **early language development** to all aspects of children's development - high prevalence of early language difficulties amongst disadvantaged children.
- A significant gap between what is known to be effective for highly vulnerable children from peer reviewed studies and what is delivered in **local child protection systems**.

## Our 'What Works Reviews' 2

- Our work on **social and emotional skills** has shown that these are fundamental for children to lead happy, healthy lives
- Disparity in the development of these skills can be seen from three years old
- We have identified a range of well-evidenced programmes that can be delivered in schools at low cost to support SES development
- These programmes were also identified, along with family support programmes, through our work to look at **early intervention to prevent gang involvement and youth violence**.

# Domestic abuse

Our very first report (2014). A priority for us to update. At the time, we found:

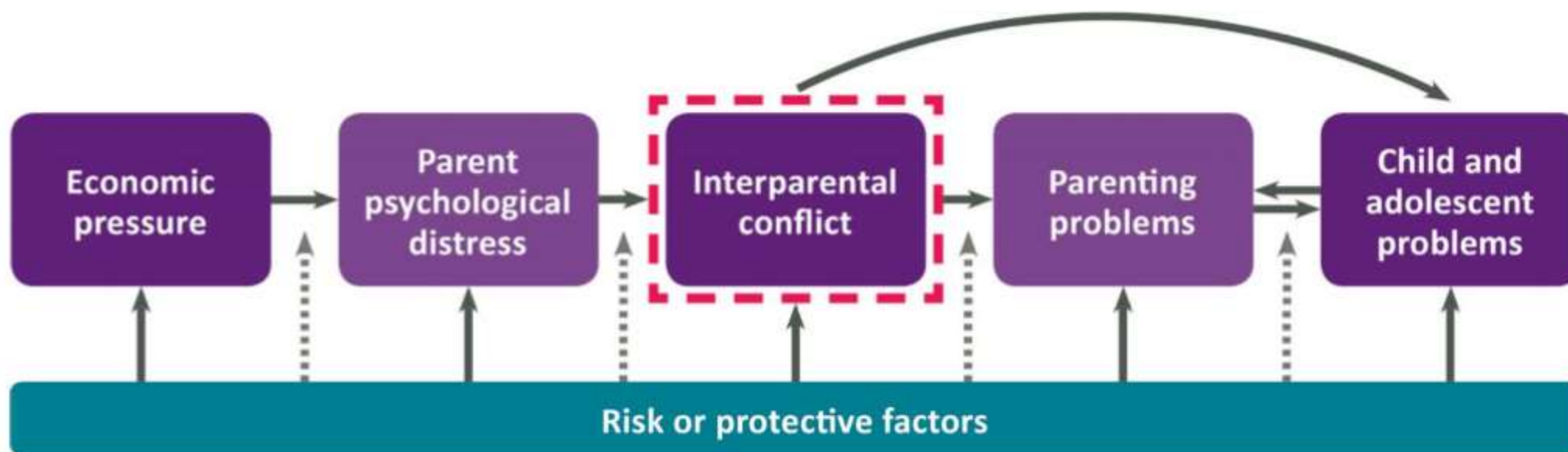
- Witnessing DA can have similar long-term consequences for a child to physical abuse targeted at the child (and these often co-exist).
- Prevention programmes required further development and testing – much of the available evidence had methodological limitations. Some of the best evidenced perpetrator programmes appeared to be ineffective.

Our recent report on the Child Protection System found that moderate to strong evidence for some approaches to working with children who had been exposed to DA.



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# Inter-parental relationships



# Disseminating the evidence on Foundations for Life (the early years)

- 403 local leaders, commissioners & others attended the Foundations for Life conference and 5 follow-up evidence seminars
- 2 out of every 3 English local authorities represented
- Large majority left the conference or seminars intending to make a change to their work as a result of what they had heard.
- 4-6 months after the conference, 60% of participants had reflected on their own practice a lot; 15% changed their behaviour a lot and 55% a little.
- 4-6 months after the evidence seminars – 65% had used EIF evidence in the past 6 months; 93% had discussed best practice with colleagues; 90% had reflected on their own practice.



# Evidence into action: some challenges

- Significant gaps between what the evidence tells us and what people actually do.
- Implementation of evidence based programmes can be very challenging.
- Need to grow the UK evidence base – e.g. UK evidence on reducing parental conflict and tracking impacts on child outcomes is limited.
- Context and targeting are critical. Need to develop our understanding of what works, for whom and when.
- Need to support programmes that don't yet meet our evidence standard of level 2, but are on a journey.
- Need to develop the evidence on workforce/practice/systems

[Stephanie.Waddell@eif.org.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Waddell@eif.org.uk)  
[www.eif.org.uk](http://www.eif.org.uk)



# Early intervention and innovation in policing WORKSHOP

Stephanie Waddell, Senior Advisor  
Early Intervention Foundation

# Early intervention in policing: the economic, social and moral case

“Most of us joined policing to make a difference and to help keep people safe. I remember once seeing a police officer to congratulate them on passing their two year probation only to hear them say ‘we aren’t making any difference... it’s the same sh\*t just a different day’. This is not in any way where we ever wanted to be. It’s bad for the public, bad for the officer and bad for society overall.”

**Chief Constable Andy Rhodes**

# The changing nature of police demand

Safeguarding Demand				
Demand	2013	2014	2015	2016
% Safeguarding Related Incidents	16.8%	17.2%	19.7%	20.4%
Mental Health Incidents	12,804	11,054	13,914	15,710
Missing Persons Investigations	5,600	9,550	15,111	20,032
Missing People	Almost 2,500 people were reported as being missing on more than one occasion in 2016/17 (26%)			
Modern Day Slavery	19	34	84	184
Sexual Offences	2,817	3,530	5,552	5,683
Domestic Abuse Incidents	38,204	39,756	45,043	51,599



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# the guardian

Slash police budgets – it will stop officers  
doing other people's jobs

Richard Garside

Police officers are concerned their work won't get picked up by other struggling public services. But that's for politicians to deal with



## EXPRESS

Home of  
the Daily and  
Sunday Express

### The police should be law enforcers not social workers

WHEN Tom Winsor was appointed as the Chief Inspector of Constabulary last year, the police kicked and screamed as if it were an outrage. Mr Winsor, you see, has never been a policeman. All previous police watchdogs have been ex-coppers. And the police feel that only one of their own can really understand them.

By **STEPHEN POLLARD**

PUBLISHED: 00:01, Wed, May 1, 2013



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## Policing is more about social work than catching criminals, says chief constable

By DAILY MAIL REPORTER  
UPDATED: 14:51, 23 July 2010



80  
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Police spend most of their time acting as 'emergency social services', according to a chief constable.

Julie Spence, head of Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said officers spent just a third of their time fighting crime. The rest they spend dealing with necessary



I do much more than police work. But if I don't do it, who will?

I had a busy shift this week, with all the extra work police have taken on in recent decades. With so much inspection, I'm too scared to do less



Police officers have been accused of mission creep, and acting as 'probation officer, social worker, schools liaison, disaster manager, event steward'. Photograph: Alamy

The police have been accused of mission creep. Richard Garside, director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, says the increase in police budgets in recent decades has had the effect of "crowding out" other

## Problems within the current system

**27%** of all referrals to children's social care in 2015/16 were from the police

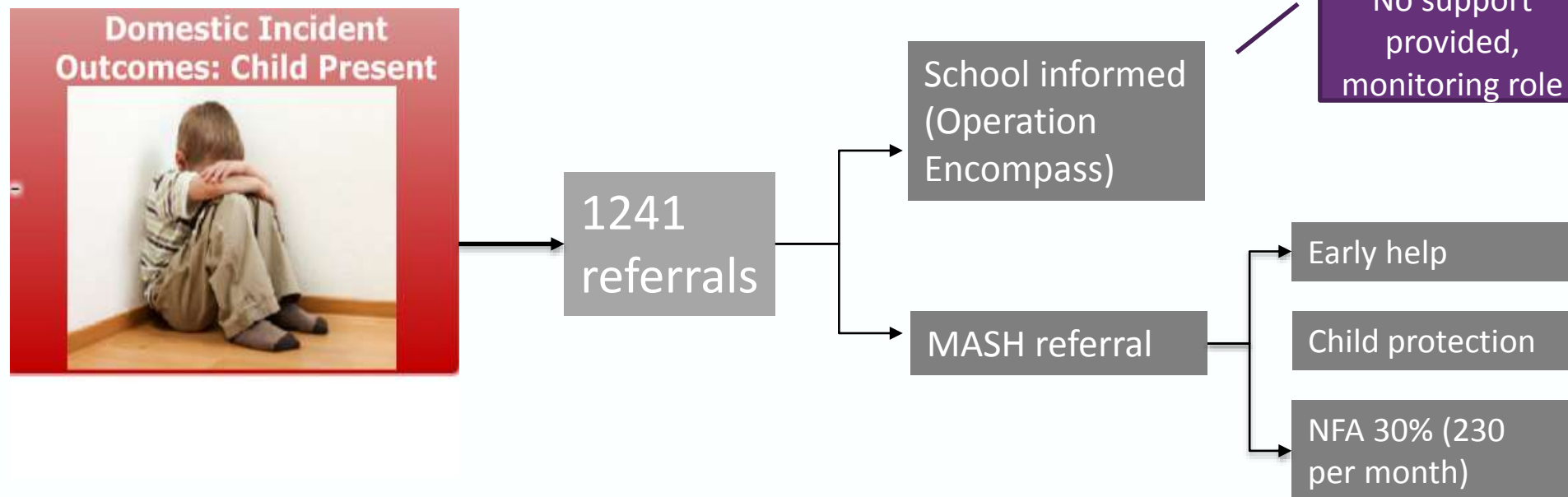
Only **9%** of Public Protection Notices submitted to social services from the police have any action taken (S Wales)

**47%** of referrals to social care following domestic violence calls involving children lead to no further action (Blackpool)



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# The partnership challenge: domestic abuse example



*Slide provided by national EI academy delegate*



# What does early intervention mean for policing?

- Workforce development: recruitment, training and development, performance management. A culture change
- Deployment: creating the capacity for early intervention
- Partnerships: resources into co-located teams?
- Understanding demand: using data in a more sophisticated way to understand demand drivers and impact of new approaches
- Testing impact: urgent need for high quality evaluation to test impact of workforce development, investment in co-located teams, and new 'pathway approaches'